

Celebrating the 2004—2005 Program Year!

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The Ready*Corps program completed another successful year on August 26, 2005. Members all over the State of Washington have served their communities by working in the fields of disaster preparedness, safety and

emergency management. They have helped the citizens become better prepared to respond to disasters and take care of themselves in times of emergency. This newsletter highlights some of the successes our mem-



bers have had in their communities. It also gives an outlook on how the new year is shaping up by introducing some



of the new partners for the 2005-06 year.

Inside this issue:

<i>Celebrating the year</i>	1
<i>Spokane team receives award</i>	1
<i>School Safety Week</i>	2
<i>SERT</i>	2
<i>CERT Corner</i>	2
<i>Governor's Award</i>	3
<i>Symposium</i>	3
<i>Community Forum</i>	3
<i>Web Site Translations</i>	4
<i>New sites for 2005-06</i>	4

Spokane Schools Team Receives Good Neighbor Award from Red Cross

The services the Spokane Public Schools team gives in the community were recognized by the Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross. In July, the Red Cross awarded the team a Good Neighbor award for their work in partnering with the Red



Spokane VISTA members Brandy Scates and Michael Pate accept the award from Garv Brakel, the chairman of the Spokane board of directors.

Cross to teach disas-

ter preparedness to children. The team operates after school safety clubs in middle schools throughout the district. The clubs engaged over 80 students in activities to help them learn to take care of themselves and their families in times of disaster and emergency.

The students produced several pamphlets on disaster preparedness and safety, including pet preparedness. To visit the Spokane Schools team Web site, please go to:

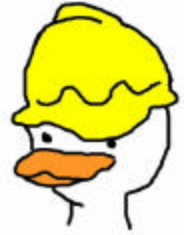
<http://www.spokanesc hools.org/StudentSupport/ReadyCorps/index.htm>

AACYF Bethel Schools Team Organizes School Safety Week

The Bethel Schools Ready*Corps team organized and carried out a school safety week, from May 9—13, where the students got to have fun while they learned about safety and how to be prepared for emergencies. The team consisted of VISTA members Nikole McMullin, Stacey Hawley, Jewely Acosta, Elissa Gonzalez and Quinn Slayton. Jewely and Quinn wrote and illustrated a children's book called "If there is an earthquake and you know it," starring original safety mascot

Duck N. Cover. The book was shared with hundreds of elementary school children throughout the district who had fun while learning the importance of earthquake safety by ducking and covering under their desks! Another great activity the team carried out was a safety video film festival. They invited several different middle school media classes to create films that focused on a topic of their choosing. Then, during the festival, everyone was invited to show their films and

compete for prizes. Those in attendance got to munch on popcorn while they enjoyed the films. Two schools tied for the first place and won cash prizes for supplies to help them further their filmmaking careers.



Duck N. Cover at your service!

Walla Walla Member Creates Successful (SERT) Program

Diane Dyer, serving in Walla Walla County Emergency Management, runs a successful Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. That in itself is a feat, but Diane took on an extra challenge during her service with Ready*Corps. She organized and implemented a successful Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) program. SERT aims to help students be prepared to respond effectively to



SERT Students!

emergency and disaster conditions while they are at school. They learn medical triage, search and rescue, basic fire ex-

tinguishing and other skills to effectively respond. Diane implemented the program in two middle schools and a teen center as an after school activity. It was so successful and popular that one of the middle schools will be incorporating SERT into their regular school schedule and will offer it as an elective, for-credit class during the new school year. Over 38 students have been trained so far!

The "CERT" Corner

Several Ready*Corps members operated successful CERT programs during the past year. Diane Dyer is mentioned above. Molly Scheer runs a CERT program for Benton and Franklin Counties. Molly's program is innovative in the way it offers many continuing education opportunities to CERT members once they have graduated. Examples are Terrorism, Sandbag-

ging, as well as exercises.

Tyler Ray successfully coordinated classes in Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor Counties for Homeland Security Region 3 and John Baldwin runs a successful program out of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. In fact John put together a big CERT rodeo in June where everyone who was CERT trained could

come and put their skills to the test. During the year Ready*Corps members helped train 277 community residents in CERT. Way to go!



Cribbing in action!

The Governor's 2005 Volunteer Service Award

Susan Williams and Diane Dyer, two Ready*Corps members, traveled to Olympia, along with volunteers they had nominated, for the Governor's 2005 Volunteer Service Award ceremony in April.

Susan nominated Jan Kinsella, a



Jan Kinsella from the Inland Northwest Chapter of the Red Cross (holding award) and Susan Williams

Communication Specialist with the Red Cross. Jan has spent time working with Spokane Public Schools middle school students to teach them more about the Red Cross and how they respond to disasters. The students got to check out the Red Cross emergency response vehicle and see how it works.

Diane nominated Jack Love, who has volunteered as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) leader for the past two years. Jack helps with monthly meetings, evaluates emergency drills, and also helps with sand-bagging. He had the opportunity to go to Florida and help with the hurricane clean-up efforts.

Jack and Jan attended a ceremony in the Governor's Mansion and got to meet the Governor and have their picture taken with her.



Ready*Corps member Diane Dyer prepares a student for SERT training

Ready*Corps Member Wins Prize at Northwest Symposium

Yujin Mun, a Ready*Corps member who served as an emergency program coordinator at the ROOTS Young Adult Shelter in Seattle, won the Jury's Choice for Visual Arts Award at the 10th Annual Northwest National Service Symposium held in May. Her 3-D, interactive artwork was titled "Emergency Plan" and was meant to help people understand a little bit about what it is like to

be homeless and sleep in a shelter. The piece consists of a mattress, pillow and blanket that are used at the shelter, as well as a bowl and cup. On the pillow, Yujin wrote questions she had about homelessness before she started working at the shelter. For more information on symposium please visit:

<http://www.nwrel.org/ecc/amicorps/symposiums/index.html>

Member at Selah Teen Center Organizes Community Forum

Lisa Belles, the Ready*Corps member serving with the Selah Parks and Recreation Teen Center, organized a community-wide disaster preparedness forum that was held in March. She brought together first responders, government officials, and community members so everyone could talk about how their community

would respond in times of emergency and disaster. It was a chance for the community members to learn more about disaster preparedness and what they can do to take care of themselves when the first responders can't get to everyone right away. Although the numbers in attendance weren't high, the evening

was a success as those who participated felt it was very valuable to them.



Lisa outside the Teen Center



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Please visit our Washington
Service Corps Web site at:
<http://www.wa.gov/esd/wsc/>



King County Ready*Corps Member: Translations Make a Difference!



Julie's picture from the King
County Web site
www.metrokc.gov/prepare

Julie Mares, a VISTA serving with the King County Office of Emergency Management, facilitated the translation of disaster preparedness materials into three of the foreign languages most commonly spoken in the county. Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese-speaking individuals can now access important disaster preparedness information in their native languages at www.metrokc.gov/prepare

The county recognized that people who speak other languages might not be able to utilize important safety information. King County Office of Emergency Management is now providing translated safety tips and re-

sources in efforts to reach more members of their diverse regional community.

To facilitate this project Julie had to work with the state to secure the funding, and then coordinate with a translation company to translate the appropriate materials. Then she made sure that everything was made available on the Web site by working with the emergency management office's Web master.

New Partners for 2005-2006 Program Year

Ready*Corps is always forming new community partnerships. We are excited to welcome these new partners into the program this year:

- City of Kent Emergency Management
 - Douglas County Emergency Management
 - Grays Harbor County Emergency Management
 - Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Emergency Management Foundation of Spokane
 - La Casa Hogar
 - People for People
 - Eastern Washington Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Apple Valley Chapter American Red Cross
 - Southwest Washington Chapter American Red Cross
 - Mt. Baker Chapter American Red Cross
 - Olympic Peninsula Chapter American Red Cross
 - Grays Harbor Chapter American Red Cross
 - Yakima Chapter Red Cross
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